

Message Text

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64

ACTION ARA-10

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FM AMEMBASSY PARAMARIBO

TO SECNAV WASHDC

INFO SECSTATE WASHDC 2770

USDAO BRASILIA BR

CINCLANT NORFOLK VA

USCOMSOLANT PONCE PR

OSD ISA

AMEMBASSY GEORGETOWN

UNCLAS PARAMARIBO 0681

SECNAV FOR SECRETARY OF THE NAVY MIDDENDORF FROM AMBASSADOR
ZURHELLEN

USDAO BRASILIA FOR INFO, CHIEF MAHONEY, SHOW BAND

EO 11652: NA

TAGS: SCUL

SUBJ: VISIT OF U.S. NAVY SHOW BAND

1. MANY THANKS FOR YOUR LETTER OF JULY 16 AND FOR
SENDING THE U.S. NAVY UNITAS SHOW BAND TO SURINAM.
THEY WERE HERE FROM JULY 28 TO AUGUST 1, PERFORMED
SIX TIMES, AND MADE A TRULY OUTSTANDING CONTRIBUTION
TO AMERICAN-SURINAMESE RELATIONS.

2. THE FINAL PERFORMANCE, EVENING OF JULY 31, WAS BEFORE
AN AUDIENCE OF 1800 PERSONS, INCLUDING THE PRESIDENT
AND VICE PRESIDENT OF SURINAM, HIGH GOVERNMENT AND
MILITARY OFFICIALS, ALMOST ALL OF THE 200 OR SO AMERICANS
WHO LIVE HERE, AND 1500 SURINAMERS WHO HAD BEEN
SPECIALLY INVITED. IN HIS RESPONSE TO MY INTRODUCTORY
REMARKS YOUR FRIEND PRESIDENT JOHAN FERRIER PAID A
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MOVING TRIBUTE TO THE UNITED STATES IN CELEBRATION OF

THE BICENTENNIAL. A TOP SURINAMESE MEN'S CHORUS DID
A BEAUTIFUL JOB OF SINGING THEIR NATIONAL ANTHEM
AND THE STAR SPANGLED BANNER. WHEN THE FINAL NOTES OF
"ANCHORS AWEIGH" DIED OUT AND THE BAND LEFT THE STAGE,
I WALKED WITH THE PRESIDENT OUT TO HIS CAR. WE HEARD
MORE COMMOTION INSIDE, AND SOMEONE SAID THE BAND HAD
FINALLY YIELDED TO THE CALLS FOR AN ENCORE; THE PRESIDENT
TURNED AROUND, HURRIED BACK INSIDE, AND WITHIN MOMENTS
WAS DANCING ON THE FLOOR OF THE HALL WITH HIS DAUGHTERS
AND A FEW OTHERS OF US EQUALLY MOVED BY THE MUSIC. NOTHING
LIKE THIS HAS HAPPENED BEFORE IN MY TOUR OF DUTY HERE,
AND I DOUBT THAT IT WILL HAPPEN SOON AGAIN.

3. SURINAM TELEVISION GAVE 20 MINUTES OF PRIME TIME TO
THE BAND AND THE SPEECHES OF THE PRESIDENT AND ME THE
EVENING OF AUGUST 1.

4. ALL TOLD, OUR EXPECTATIONS FOR A MAJOR NAVY CONTRIBUTION
TO THE CELEBRATING OF THE BICENTENNIAL HERE WERE EXCEEDED AND
FULL CREDIT GOES TO THE MEN OF THE BAND FOR THE TIRELESS,
WILLING AND CHEERFUL WAY IN WHICH THEY WORKED. WE HOPE
THEY ENJOYED BEING HERE AS MUCH AS WE ENJOYED HAVING THEM.
A RESOUNDING "WELL DONE" TO THE NAVY FROM ALL OF US.
ZURHELLEN

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